measuring 820 Sq. Km., w.e.f. August 1997. Seismic surveys has been started thereafter in this PEL from the field season 1997-98.

(b) The seismic surveys were planned to be conducted in the field seasons 1997—99.

(c) Does not arise in view of (b) above.

(d) Under New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP), drilling of a well is optional in the first phase of exploration which can extend up to three years in onland areas.

(e) In the Contai PEL block held by ONGC, since 1997 no well has been drilled.

(f) The area is under evaluation.

Financial Assistance to dependents of missing employees in ONGC

2555. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 293 given in the Rajya Sabha on 24 July, 2001 and state:

(a) the names and posts held by all the seven deceased employees in ONGC;

(b) the name and posts provided to all the dependents of the six employees in ONGC; and

(c) the name of the dependent of the deceased to whom financial assistance was made in lieu of employment togetherwith the amount paid?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) The details of the seven employees of ONGC who were reported to have died in harness while performing official duties during the period January, 1990 to December, 1994 are given in the Statement I (*See* below).

(b) The details of the employment provided to the dependents of the six deceased employees in ONGC are given in the Statement II (*See* below).

(c) Financial assistance in lieu of gainful employment amounting to Rs. 1.05 lakhs was given to Smt. M. Padma, wife of (Late) Shri M. Govind Reddy, Deputy Superintending Chemist who died on 8.05.1994, on account of cardiac arrest, while on duty on board the Offshore Drilling Rig, Badrinath.

Statement-I

Details of Employees of ONGC who are reported to have died in harness while performing official duties during the period between January, 1990 to December, 1994

Sl. No.	Name of deceased employees	Designation	Date of Death	Cause of Death
	Late S/Shri			
1.	R.P. Srivastava	Superintending Chemist	14.02.90	Air crash
2.	P.P. Srivastava	Superintending Engineer (Drilling)	18.09.91	Kidnapped and killed by militants
3.	Joseph Ekka	Deputy Superintending Engineer (Mechanical)	11.11.92	Helicopter crash
4.	V.M. Mundhe	Junior Technician (Production)	11.11.92	Helicopter crash
5.	B.B. Kodape	Fire Inspector, Grade-II	21.4.94	Road accident
6.	M. Govind Reddy	Deputy Superintending Chemist	08.05.94	Cardiac arrest on Offshore Rig.
7.	J.A. Parmar	Assistant Executive Engineer (Mechanical)	14.11.94	Road accident

Statement-II

Details of dependents of deceased employees of ONGC who were provided employment assistance in ONGC on compassionate grounds.

Sl.	Name and Designation of deceased employees	Name and relationship of dependent who was provided employment in ONGC.	Post to which the dependent was employed
1.	Shri R.P. Srivastava, Superintendent Chemist	Shri Deepak Srivastava, Son	Technical Assistant Grade-II (Chemistry)
2.	Shri. P.P. Srivastava, Superintending Enginner (Drilling)	Shri Ajay Srivastava, Son	Junior Engineer (Electronics)
3.	Shri Joseph Ekka, Deputy Superintending Engineer (Mechanical)	Shri Joseph Ekka, son	Junior Engineer (Civil)

Sl.	Name and Designation of deceased employees	Name and relationship of dependent who was provided employment in ONGC.	Post to which the dependent was employed
4.	Shri V.M. Mundhe, Junior Technical (Production)	Smt. Shilpa Mundhe, Wife	Attendant Grade-III
5.	Shri B.B. Kodape, Fire Inspector Grade-II	Smt. Raman B. Kodape, Wife	Attendant Grade-III
6.	Shri J.A. Parmar, Assistant Executive Engineer (Mechanical)	Smt. Kavita J. Parmar, Wife	Junior Assistant. (P&A)

Change in price mechanism of gas supply through HRJ pipeline

2556. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any decision to change the price mechanism of gas supplied along through HRJ pipeline;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government will continue the subsidy for domestic consumers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) to (d) No, Sir. However, the revision of natural gas prices upto March, 2002 is under active consideration of the Government.

Private oil refineries in kerosene retail market

2557. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have requested the private oil refineries to stop selling kerosene *via* parallel market;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons therefor?